From: Simmons, Denise
To: Klein, Eliza
Subject: Re: Taking a stand for Palestinian human rights
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 6:34:02 PM

Dear Ms. Klein,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of passionate discussion in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm.

There have been numerous op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, and some have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet even have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to discuss this amongst ourselves unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Klein, Eliza <eak2@williams.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 3:06 PM
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Taking a stand for Palestinian human rights

Dear Councilor Simmons,

My name is Eliza Klein and I am currently a student at Williams College. I grew up in Cambridge, attending the Cambridge Public Schools for my entire life, and have always been active in standing up for social justice issues in the city. I was the president of the Environmental Action Club at CRLS for multiple years, and was active in advocating for the creation of the composting program in the Cambridge Public Schools.

Today, I am emailing you today to support the Massachusetts Against Hewlett-Packard campaign, and to urge you to do the same. I stand with Massachusetts Against Hewlett-Packard because I care deeply about immigrant rights, international law, incarcerated people, and Cambridge's long history of standing on the side of justice. Additionally, I am a proud Jew who firmly believes that Palestinians should be treated humanely.

It is so important to me that the Cambridge City Council votes with conscience and takes a strong stand for Palestinian human rights on the issue to be discussed on the 23rd. As a community that takes pride in standing up for social justice and human rights, I implore you to be on the right side of history.

Best,
Eliza